

CLAIMS

1. A meatal occluder for closing a lachrymal meatus of a human eye, comprising a substantially cylindrical body (10) and characterized in that it further comprises at least one fin (13) adapted to take up a folded position, wherein the fin (13) is substantially folded into the cylindrical body (10), and an extended position wherein the fin (13) projects from the cylindrical body (10), said fin (13) being heat-deformable from said folded position to said extended position.

2. Meatal occluder according to claim 1, characterized in that it is made from a heat-expandable material.

3. Meatal occluder according to either claim 1 or claim 2, characterized in that it is made from polymers chosen from a group comprising polymers, homopolymers, cross-linked polymers, silicones, acrylic polymers, polyurethanes, hydrocarbonated polymers and a combination of the above polymers.

4. Meatal occluder according to claim 2, characterized in that the heat-expandable material has a vitreous transition temperature from -10°C to 30°C.

5. Meatal occluder according to any one of claims 1 to 4 characterized in that said fin (13) pivots between said folded position and said extended position about an axis perpendicular to a longitudinal plane of said meatal occluder.

6. Meatal occluder according to claim 5, characterized in that said fin (13) when in said folded position extends in a direction substantially parallel to the longitudinal direction (X) of the cylindrical body (10).

7. Meatal occluder according to either claim 5 or claim 6, characterized in that said fin (13) is situated in the vicinity of one end (10b) of said cylindrical body

(10), a free end (13a) of said fin (13), when in the folded position, extending in the direction of the opposite end (10a) of said cylindrical body (10).

5        8. Meatal occluder according to any one of claims 1 to 4 characterized in that said fin (13) pivots between said folded position and said extended position about an axis parallel to the longitudinal direction (X) of the cylindrical body (10).

10       9. Meatal occluder according to any one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that said fin (13) is situated in the vicinity of a tapered end (10b) of said cylindrical body (10), the opposite end (10a) of said cylindrical body (10) comprising a flange (11).

15       10. Meatal occluder according to any one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that it comprises a plurality of fins (13) regularly distributed on the cylindrical body (10) of said occluder.